



Equal Rights

Official Organ, THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY
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ALICE PAUL SAILS FOR GENEVA

ALICE PAUL, founder of the National Woman's Party and author of the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equal Rights Treaty, sailed on February 12 on the *George Washington* for Geneva to attend the session of the International Labor Organization. Mrs. John Jay White of New York, member of the National Council of the Woman's Party, and Mrs. Hazel Moore of North Carolina, accompanied Miss Paul.

Dr. Isador Lubin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, who will be this government's representative at the I. L. O. Conference, sailed last Wednesday to attend preliminary sessions.

On February 20, Miss Paul and Mrs. White will meet with the Women's Consultative Committee of the League of Nations to draw up a plan to submit to the International Labor Organization.

The state of women with special reference to the Equal Rights Treaty will come before the governing board of the International Labor Organization. The board was requested to look into:

The question of equality under labor legislation; and in the first place of legislation which affects discrimination, some of which may be detrimental to women's right to work.

When the request was made, the League recommended further study by women's organizations and asked for observations and report by the governments of member nations of the whole question of the political and civil status of women for further consideration by the assembly of the League of Nations at a subsequent session.

The governing board of the I. L. O. will meet on February 20. This meeting will be the first since the reference to the I. L. O. of the Assembly's request for an examination by it of the question of equality under labor legislation. The annual conference of the I. L. O. as a whole will be held in June.

In a statement given out before sailing, Miss Paul said:

"This is a moment of great significance in the woman movement. For the first time the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations has before it the question of the whole status of women, with especial reference to the Equal Rights Treaty. Since there is a world tide sweeping women out of paid positions, it is of the utmost importance that women from all over the world rally to the support of this proposed international agreement in order to preserve their right to work for money.

"The United States will be one of the leading powers participating in this conference at Geneva and it is therefore particularly important that American women do everything possible to see that their representatives

at Geneva stand for the right of all women, including married women, to remain in the field of paid labor.

"We have not chosen the battlefield, but since at every meeting of the I. L. O. another restriction against women's right to work is taken up, the only way we can meet the challenge is to go into the field where these international treaties are against us. The forces of equality must win out against European standards to bar women from the field of paid work.

"The governing body of the I. L. O. is made up of representatives of principal countries and decides upon action to be taken at the annual conference of the I. L. O. to be held in June. This is the first time that the status of women, with particular reference to the Equal Rights Treaty, has come before the governing body. The work to be done there by women in behalf of equality will be in preparation for the June conference and will lead up to a procession of women from all over the world in support of the adoption of the Equal Rights Treaty."

Miss Paul considers the proposed treaty question one for consideration by the assembly, but welcomes an opportunity to present the woman's case to the I. L. O., which up to now has consistently favored special legislation for women. Miss Paul believes this will be an opportunity to settle working conditions for women all over the world.

After the meeting of the governing board of the I. L. O., Miss Paul and Mrs. White, as members of the International Committee, will tour the countries of Europe, presenting the Equal Rights Treaty to the various women's congresses in session. One of the largest and most influential congresses which they will attend will be in Yugoslavia.

They will return to Geneva for the annual conference of the I. L. O. in June.

IDAHO WOMEN ENDORSE AMENDMENT

The Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the Southwestern District of Idaho endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment and the Equal Rights Treaty at the recent convention held at Caldwell, Idaho. The two resolutions read:

THE EQUAL RIGHTS TREATY

WHEREAS, women in other civilized countries have been denied rights formerly enjoyed by them; and

WHEREAS, women in backward countries are still living in unbelievable subjugation and helplessness; and

WHEREAS, it is increasingly evident that women of the United States are in danger of perhaps equally humiliating restrictions and economic and legal discriminations,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of southwestern Idaho affirm its support of the *Equal Rights Treaty* already signed by four countries at Montevideo, urge the adherence of the United States

to this treaty, and cooperation to the end that it may be accepted, signed and ratified by all nations of the world.

(Signed) MAUDE L. COSHO,
Legislative Chairman.

Caldwell, Idaho
January 26, 1936.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the rights of women are being threatened in many states today, particularly their right to gainful employment, creating a great need for the immediate passage of the *Equal Rights Amendment* to the United States Constitution, which reads:

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of southwestern Idaho endorse this Amendment and urge our Representatives and Senators to exert every effort to bring about its passage at the present session of Congress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our Congressmen to use their best efforts for the immediate passage of H. R. 5051, which will repeal Section 213 of the Economy Act (the Married Women's law).

(Signed) MAUDE L. COSHO,
Legislative Chairman.

AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF CIVIL SERVICE WOMEN

During the past month the National Woman's Party received the text of the resolution endorsing the Amendment recently adopted by the American Alliance of Civil Service Women. The communication from the Civil Service Alliance reads:

January 10th, 1936.

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment would correct the serious discrimination against women in the industrial, political and economic fields, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the American Alliance of Civil Service Women wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of the National Woman's Party to bring about the passage of this Amendment and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the National Woman's Party to be used by it in its efforts to bring about the passage of the Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) ANNA W. HOCHFELDER,
National President, American Alliance of Civil Service Women.

CHARLES CURTIS, A LOYAL FRIEND

The Woman's Party mourns the loss of a true friend in the passing of former Vice President Charles Curtis, on February 8, at his residence in Washington.

Always a staunch champion of women; a believer in woman suffrage in Kansas, when it was not popular throughout the country; when elected to the United States Senate, he introduced the Equal Rights Amendment for the first time in the Senate, in the 68th Congress, on December 10, 1923, and again in two succeeding Congresses. In 1928, in his speech of acceptance of the Vice

Presidency, as running mate with Herbert Hoover, Senator Curtis made a stirring appeal over a nation wide radio hook up, for the acceptance of women in public life. He appealed to the nation for the acknowledgement of women's right to hold Government and public office and for general recognition of their importance in the civic life of the nation.

The National Woman's Party extends sincere gratitude for his unwavering support of all Equality legislation during the entire term of his public life.

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

Founded 1913

Object

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships, and in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the National Constitution and the Equal Rights Treaty.

The Lucretia Mott Amendment

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced, Senate—By Senator Townsend, Del., Jan. 4, 1935
(Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.)

House—By Rep. Ludlow, Ind., Jan. 3, 1935.
(House Joint Resolution No. 1.)

Present Status—Senate—Before Judiciary Committee.
House—Before Judiciary Committee.

The Equal Rights Treaty

Article 1

"The contracting States agree that upon the ratification of this treaty men and women shall have equal rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdictions."

Signed—By the Governments of Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay at Montevideo, December, 1933.

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EQUAL RIGHTS

(Registered in U. S. Patent Office)

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THE 40-HOUR WORK WEEK LAW FOR WOMEN ONLY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

by Helena Hill Weed

Member Congressional Committee, National Woman's Party

The 40-hour work week law for women only in the District of Columbia, on which hearings are now being held before the District of Columbia Committee of the House of Representatives, is the most important and the most dangerous piece of legislation affecting women now before Congress or any State Legislature.

It is important because it is frankly introduced as "an example for the rest of the nation to follow" and because it will eventually affect every adult woman in the United States, regardless of whether she is encompassed by its restrictions at the present moment or not.

It is dangerous because it is a flagrant and indefensible attack on the established constitutional liberty of adult women. If their rights can be successfully broken down by police regulations at one point they can be denied at any other point. No one's constitutional rights will be respected—either those of men or women.

In this day of economic disruption no woman of leisure can afford to remain indifferent to attacks on the right of women to order their own lives in earning their living, for no one knows what the next day may bring forth, so far as economic security is concerned. The one thing women can cling to, as a pledge of economic independence and insurance against the bread line, is their *human right* to earn their living in fair competition with every other human being. This bill would utterly destroy that constitutional right.

What does the bill say about the woman's work week? It says that no employer may employ or permit any female of 16 years of age or over to be employed in any establishment in the District of Columbia for more than 40 hours in any given week. By *establishment* is meant any place where any remuneration is given to any one whomsoever. By a *40-hour week* is meant a *total* of 40 hours in *all* establishments where a given female may be employed during any week. All of her employers, whether she works at one or more jobs, are jointly liable if her *total* hours of work exceed 40 hours unless they can prove that they were ignorant of the fact that her total working time exceeded 40 hours. Every establishment employing women must keep a complicated set of books regarding each woman employee, and his office and establishment must be open at all times to investigators who are hunting for violations. Thus it becomes both a nuisance and a danger to employ women at all.

What women are covered by the restrictions of the bill? Every female 16 years of age and over who works for any remuneration whatsoever in the District of Columbia, or in any establishment where any one is paid a remuneration; except domestic servants working in homes, farm women, graduate nurses and women employed in maintenance

work during a period of emergency. No other woman is exempted, regardless of her profession, occupation or calling.

The bill does provide that the *Hour Law Board*, created by the Act, *may* exempt professional women, executives, superintendents, managers, secretaries, and other women working in such positions, who, in the opinion of the Board, are not impairing their health or welfare by working more than 40 hours a week. The worker has no say in the matter. She will be at the mercy of the Board.

Thus the women who have spent years of time in training for professions, or have reached the upper grades of employment after a long period of working experience, are placed under a Board of Conservators, who would have the absolute right to so restrict them that they would be unable to carry on their work.

It is said that the Board would be reasonable in its decisions, but this is no excuse for granting any board, elected or appointed, an unconstitutional control over the right of any woman to earn her living in any lawful way that she may see fit.

All women who do not come in the specifically exempt class, or in the group which the Board may exempt at its own will, come under the mandatory provisions of the Act. Its proponents say that more than 50,000 women will be restricted by these mandatory provisions.

No one can say with any assurance that women officials would be exempt. The bill says, "every female working for any remuneration whatsoever in the District of Columbia, no matter where employed." As it stands it would cover women Members of Congress, all women in the Government service and in the offices of Government officials, for they are all bound by the police regulations of the District of Columbia—and this bill is a police regulation. The police court records today show that Members of Congress must obey them. It was necessary for Governor Miriam Ferguson of Texas to secure legislative exemption from her legal incapacities as a woman before she could function as governor. Do the proponents of this bill expect that the women Senators and Representatives will relish asking this Board for exemption, in order that they may do their official work in Congress?

Women are running large hotels and restaurants in the District of Columbia. It is not to be presumed that their employers consider them incompetent to manage their own lives if they are able to manage these establishments—yet the women who run the Dodge Hotel, the Allies Inn, the Supreme Court restaurant, Stoneleigh Court, The Mayfair, 2101 Connecticut Avenue, and dozens of such places, would be obliged to ask this appointed Board for personal exemption from this bill before they could work over 40 hours a week.

Professional women, like Dr. O'Malley, who heads an important department at St. Elizabeth's, Judge Bentley of the Children's Court, and all the other professional women would have to plead for exemption, and prove that their health and welfare

were not being impaired before they could go ahead with their work.

Every business in the city, attempting to retain its women employees would be disrupted, for none of them work on a 40-hour basis. The expense of keeping extra shifts of women would be prohibitive, so women would lose their jobs, as far as they could be eliminated, and those who remained would certainly receive lower pay. Business establishments are not run as charitable institutions, and some one must pay for the added costs of such regulations as this bill would entail. Women would bear the brunt of the economic burden.

And what effect would this bill have on the classified and unclassified services of the Government? No one thought, when Section 213 was included in an emergency measure, that it would be interpreted as an amendment to the Civil Service Act, but it was, and hundreds of women lost their jobs. No one knows how many more may be denied admission to these services in future because of Section 213. All efforts to repeal it have so far been unsuccessful.

The 40-hour law may, similarly be interpreted as an amendment to the regulations fixing government work hours, although the penalty section would be inapplicable. The law provides that if any one section is held to be inapplicable the others will stand.

On every hand we hear that elimination of women is the real objective of the 40-hour bill for the District of Columbia. By its wording it would include the entire Government Service, as well as the women in the offices of Members of Congress. By custom, every Government employee must be willing to work overtime, without extra pay, when necessary. If such overtime were prohibited, under the police regulations of the District of Columbia, this bill would clear women out of these offices like a whirlwind blowing on dry leaves.

We in the National Woman's Party believe that if the Children's Hospital decision meant anything, it meant that thenceforth no laws which restricted the civil and contractual rights of women would be held valid unless they applied to men under similar circumstances, with the exception of laws for the protection of women's maternal functions by forbidding work at certain heavy or dangerous occupations. No one claims that the pending hour restrictions are for that purpose. Its proponents say that it is not a health law, and that its administration has no place in the Health Department. By their own admission they have recognized its unconstitutionality.

Its introduction is the first step toward dictatorial control of women—and it is identical with the first steps taken abroad to reduce women to the status of mere breeders of cannon fodder. Unless we marshal all our political and legal forces to annihilate this attack, women of America may soon be on the road to join the women of Germany and Italy in their economic and political oblivion.

THE RIGHT OF MARRIED WOMEN TO EARN

Dorothy Thompson (Mrs. Sinclair Lewis), journalist, publicist, and lecturer, will be heard in Washington next week for the first time as a platform speaker at a meeting to be held Friday evening, February 21, at the Carlton Hotel, under the auspices of the National Woman's Party.

Introduced by Senator Ernest W. Gibson of Vermont, Miss Thompson will speak on "The Right of Married Women to Earn," a subject of more than usual interest at this time in view of developments abroad, and recent and prospective legislation in this country.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Laura M. Berrien, Treasurer Edna Nick, Auditor
Receipts collected by National Headquarters from founding of Woman's Party, December 7, 1912, to March 31, 1935, and already acknowledged in Equal Rights, amount to \$2,074,907.28.

The following additional receipts, exclusive of subscriptions from Equal Rights were received from March 31, 1935 to April, 1935

Mrs. Avery Coonley, D. C.	\$50.00
Mrs. Gertrude Cuthbert, N. Y.	200.00
Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Del.	35.00
Mrs. William Kent, Calif.	25.00
Miss Marion May, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. Mary Murray, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. Stephen Pell, N. Y.	10.00
Miss Alice Paul, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Selden Rogers, N. Y.	5.00
Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, D. C.	5.00
Mrs. Anna Behling, D. C.	1.00
Frances R. Budd, D. C.	1.00
Miss Alice Carpenter, Mass.	9.00
Mrs. O. de Bouchel, D. C.	2.00
Miss Gladys Greiner, Md.	1.00
Mrs. Richard Gurley, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. Alice Harmon, D. C.	1.00
Mrs. Augustus Korndorfer, Jr., Pa.	1.00
Miss Margaret Lawrence, D. C.	1.00
Betty W. Mayer, Pa.	10.00
Mrs. Jane Norman Smith, N. Y.	30.50
Miss Emily Ward, D. C.	1.00
Mrs. Grace Hoffman White, N. Y.	100.00
Sale of Equal Rights	.55
Sale of Literature	5.10
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	341.67
Share of dues paid to National Headquarters by the following branches, balances being retained by said branches:	
Columbus, Ohio	.75
Delaware County, Pa.	5.00

\$917.57

May, 1935

Mrs. Katherine V. Alford, D. C.	1.00
Mrs. Mary Brandon, Ohio	10.00
Miss Lucille H. Carnes, D. C.	1.00
Miss Catherine Curtis, N. Y.	1.00
Mrs. Blanche Haskell, N. Y.	1.00
Mrs. Mary Herndon, Ohio	1.00
Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Del.	35.00
Miss Reba Huntsman, D. C.	1.00
Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs for Expenses of Speaker	95.21
Mrs. Vernona Jones, Iowa	1.00
Mrs. William Kent, Calif.	25.00
Mrs. R. S. Martin, Texas	1.00
Mrs. Thomas McKittrick, N. H.	1.00
Mrs. Nellie Merrell, Conn.	25.00
New Jersey Branch (Convention Pledge)	15.00
Miss Georgia O'Keefe, N. Y.	25.00
Mrs. M. Katherine Ott, D. C.	1.00
Mrs. Stephen Pell, N. Y.	10.00
Miss Carol Rehflach, Calif.	10.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Selden Rogers, N. Y.	5.00
Mrs. Kathleen Vance, Ohio	1.00
Mrs. Grace Hoffman White, N. Y.	60.00
Mrs. Lillian Wightman, Ind.	1.00
Share of dues paid to National Headquarters by the following branches, balances being retained by said branches:	
Harrisburg, Pa.	3.75
New York City Committee	74.75
Maryland	49.00
Michigan (Evening Group)	1.00
Philadelphia City Branch, Pennsylvania	49.00
Sale of Literature	5.00
Sale of Equal Rights	1.50
Rent of Rooms at Headquarters	432.75

\$943.96

Receipts during April and May, 1935	\$1,851.53
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to March 31, 1935	2,074,907.28
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to May 31, 1935	\$2,076,768.81

Will be continued in next issue.